REMARKS

Claims 1 through 7 and 9 through 20 are pending in this application. Claim 4 is hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 1 is hereby amended.

Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 9 through 20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,275,831. Applicants would like to defer submission of a terminal disclaimer, if necessary, until the Examiner indicates that all other rejections have been overcome.

Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 9 through 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,684,990 to Boothby ("Boothby patent"). Claim 1 is hereby amended to include the limitations of claim 4, canceled herein. Claim 1 as amended provides that the data repository stores user information that is a super-set of all user information stored at the data sets. A detailed description of the data repository is provided at page 12, line 20, through page 13, line 6, of the specification.

The above Office Action states that the Boothby patent teaches the above limitation of claim 4 at col. 1, lines 9 through 25. However, col. 1, lines 9 through 25, merely describes the need of many users to synchronize databases on more than one device. The Boothby patent does not describe or suggest any type of data repository that stores a super-set of all user information stored at data sets, as required by amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 distinguishes patentably from the Boothby patent.

Claims 2, 3, 5 through 7, and 9 through 20 depend from and include the limitations of independent claim 1 as amended. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5 through 7, and 9 through 20 distinguish patentably from the Boothby patent for the reasons stated above for amended claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 9 through 20 are respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The first page of the attached page(s) is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 4 is canceled, and claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. (Amended) In a data processing environment, a method for synchronizing multiple data sets, the method comprising:

establishing a data repository for facilitating synchronization of user information maintained among multiple data sets, said data repository storing user information that is a super-set of all user information stored at [from] the data sets;

storing at least one mapping which specifies how user information may be transformed for storage at a given data set;

receiving a request for synchronizing at least one data set;

based on user information stored at said at least one data set and based on said at least one mapping, propagating to the data repository from each of at said at least one data set any changes made to the user information, to the extent that such changes can be reconciled with user information already present at said data repository; and

based on user information stored at said data repository and based on said at least one mapping, propagating to each of said at least one data set any changes to the user information which have been propagated to the data repository, to the extent that such changes are not present at said each data set..